(ii) Modification of the Signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.

(iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.

(iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

(v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

(vi) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(vii) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

(viii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

(ix) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

(x) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

(xi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.

(xii) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.

(xiii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

(xiv) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

Change in Patna Bound Shatabdi Express Route

920. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request/suggestion for changing the route of Delhi-Patna bound Shatabdi Express via Moradabad and Bareilly; and

(b) if so, the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no Shatabdi Express between New Delhi and Patna. However, some representations have been received for routing New Delhi-Patna Rajdhani Express via Moradabad-Bareilly.

(b) Diversion of the Rajdhani Express via Moradabad-Bareilly was not found feasible due to longer running time and other operational difficulties en-route.

[English]

Gratuity to PSU Employees

921. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have scrapped the proposal to increase the amount of gratuity payable to employees of Public Sector Undertakings from 1 lakh to 2.5 lakhs i.e. at par with Central Government Employees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said proposal was already approved by the earlier Government;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to enhance the amount as mentioned above; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e). The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 was amended and ceiling on the maximum amount of gratuity was last enhanced in May, 1994 from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 1,00 Lakh. Consequent on enhancement in the amount of gratuity from Rs. 1,00 lakh to Rs. 2,50 lakh payable to the Central Government employees, demands have been received for similar enhancement in the case of the employees working in the public sector undertakings. As the P.G. Act applies to establishments including Central and State PSUs and its provisions are being administered mainly by State Governments, the proposal has been referred to State Governments, the Employers' and Employees' Organisations for their comments. As the proposal also involves amendment of the Act, it is difficult to indicate the time limit by when the amount of gratuity under the P.G. Act will be enhance.

Mineral Reserves

922. SHRI HARADHAN ROY :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3191 on 18th December, 1995 regarding mineral reserves and state:

(a) whether the requisite information have since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d). The implementation Report has been sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs/Lok Sabha Secretariat by this Ministry *vide* O.M. No. 1/62/95-M.V dated 11.10.96.

Job through Employment Exchange

923. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated September 19, 1996 captioned "Job through employment exchange, SC holds Govt. mode unconstitutional"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The judgement of the Supreme Court is being examined in consultation with the Department of Personnel and Training, which is the nodal Department in this regard.

Right to Job

924. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to include "Right to Job" as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : The Central Government do not propose to include "Right to Job" as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution, mainly on account of resource constraints.

Committees for Air Safety

925. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up two committees to study Air Safety;

(b) if so, the main points referred to the Committees; and

(c) the time by which these two committees are likely to submit their report?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Air Marshal (Retd.) J.K. Seth has been set up to review the existing set up of Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Aircraft Act, 1934, Aircraft Rules, 1937 and various safety regulations to ensure air safety and efficient regulatory control on aviation activities. The other committee has been constituted for creating safety awareness and dissemination of safety information.

(c) The tenure of the Air Marshal (Retd.) J.K. Seth committee is six months and that of the other committee is one year with effect from 3.9.96.

Memotel Speed Recorders

926. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board had placed orders for Memotel Speed Recorders in 1989;

(b) if so, whether the contractor has supplied memotel speed recordors in time;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the loss incurred by the Government as a result thereof due to increase in rate of foreign exchange;

(d) the total loss incurred by the Government;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to recover the loss;

(f) whether any responsibility has been fixed for these irregularities;

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon, and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) An order for 20 sets of Microsprocessor based speed indicating and recording system TELOC 2000 D was placed in November, 1989.

(b) The material ordered was supplied by the contractor within the contractual delivery period. However, this was replaced by Memotel type speed recorders in April, 96 at no extra charge.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Nil.

(e) to (h). Does not arise.

Quality of Imported Tin Plates

927. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the tin plates being imported are not of the desired quality and even some plates are painted;